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SEARCH FOR COKING COAL IN POLAND

After World War II, Poland began new borings on those sites where earlier drilling had shown the presence of natural gas (methane). After a short time, positive results were obtained, the most important of which was the discovery of natural-gas wells in Cieszyn District. In one of these borings at 1,054 meters, a thick vein of coal was discovered. Other drillings, a few kilometers to the east, yielded similar results. Stratographic and laboratory investigations confirmed the assumption that coking coal would be present near these openings. Subsequent investigations by the Main Institute of Mining and by the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy verified the results and proved the presence of coking coal in areas bordering on the Carpathians. The occurrence of natural gas in combination with coking coal was observed previously in the district south of Gliwice, in the Friedrichsgrube mine, which is now closed.

Coking coal is thus traceable in the upper valley of the Vistula at a depth of over 1,000 meters. Such depths are attainable in coal mining. It is assumed that these depths will not exceed 1,200 meters. However, there is a possibility that some of these deposits lie closer to the surface.

This by no means exhausts the possibility of the occurrence of coking-coal beds in the southern part of the Gorny Slask coal region. For a rather long time, the valley of the Biala River, which extends due north of Biala, has aroused considerable interest. Earlier borings there and in the vicinity of Polanka Wielka have shown the presence of coking coal at a depth of 800 - 950 meters. Farther to the east, large natural-gas wells have been discovered. Whether or not coking coal also occurs in the southern tip of the Polish coal region, in the area of Spytkowice and Ryczow near Skawina, which is so rich in black coal, is open to geological exploration. The conjectures are based on the typically tectonic structure of these beds and upon the occurrence of natural gas there. The present state of geological and petrographic investigation, particularly in the southern section of the Polish industrial basin, is still inadequate but does allow the probability that several still undetermined deposits of coking coal will be found there.

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